United Nations A/57/232

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 September 2002
English
Original: Spanish

Fifty-seventh session

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session

South American Zone of Peace and Cooperation

Letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "South American Zone of Peace and Cooperation", for consideration by the plenary.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, I attach an explanatory memorandum (see annex) and a copy of the Declaration regarding a South American peace zone, adopted in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on 21 July 2002 (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) Oswaldo **de Rivero**
Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations

02-60102 (E) 240902 240902

Annex

Explanatory memorandum

South American Zone of Peace and Cooperation

The South American Zone of Peace and Cooperation was declared on 27 July 2002 in the context of the second meeting of Presidents of South America held in Guayaquil, Ecuador. This zone of peace and cooperation is based on the collective interest in strengthening confidence, security and cooperation in the region. The move is in line with regional efforts to promote and encourage, in a coordinated manner, the development and general well-being of the South American peoples.

The South American Zone of Peace and Cooperation consists of the following States: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Background

The South American Zone of Peace and Cooperation is the final consolidation of various regional and sub-regional initiatives that have arisen in recent years in the region, such as the Andean Agreement on Peace, Security and Cooperation contained in the Galápagos Declaration of December 1989; the Declaration of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile as a Zone of Peace, signed in Ushuaia in July 1998; and the Lima Commitment establishing the Andean Charter for Peace and Security and for the Limitation and Control of External Defence Spending, signed on 17 July 2002.

At the first meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Andean Community, MERCOSUR and Chile, which was held in La Paz on 17 July 2001, a relevant set of guidelines was prepared to promote confidence, continuing dialogue on security and defence issues and progressive limitation of arms purchases and to encourage transparency and participation in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

Proposal

It is of the utmost importance that this important initiative receive international recognition and support; it is taking place in a context of international insecurity, characterized by the threat of terrorism and the persistence of violent conflicts. Cooperation and joint action based on internationally recognized principles concerning, inter alia, the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, the gradual elimination of anti-personnel mines, the timely implementation of the Action Plan on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the promotion of peace among all, are sure and steady steps towards the promotion and strengthening of regional and international peace and security.

Enclosure

Declaration regarding a South American peace zone

The Presidents of the Republic of Argentina, the Republic of Bolivia, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic of Paraguay, the Republic of Peru, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as well as the representatives of the Heads of State of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the Republic of Suriname, and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, gathered in Guayaquil on the occasion of the Second Meeting of Presidents of South America on 26 and 27 July 2002;

Bearing in mind the transcendence of the historical meeting in Guayaquil 180 years ago, on 26 July 1822, between the Liberators José de San Martín and Simón Bolívar, under whose guiding spirit they have come together at this gathering of the highest order;

Convinced that peace, security and cooperation should be grounded in commitments that reinforce mutual trust and promote development and the overall well-being of their peoples and of the region as a whole;

In view of the initiatives of various governments and regional groups, such as the Andean Peace, Security and Cooperation Commitment contained in the Declaration of Galápagos, of December 1989; the Declaration of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile as a Peace Zone, signed in Ushuaia in July 1998; and the Lima Commitment, Andean Charter for Peace and Security signed on 17 June 2002; and

Recalling the commitment to create a South American Peace Zone, adopted in the Brasilia Communiqué on 1 September 2000,

Hereby declare:

South America to be a zone of peace and cooperation, a historical event that reflects the best traditions of understanding and peaceful coexistence among the peoples of the region,

That, in the spirit of the above-mentioned instruments, in South America the use of, or the threat of the use of, force between States shall be banned, in keeping with the principles and the provisions of the United Nations Charter and of the Charter of the Organization of American States. The siting, development, manufacture, possession, deployment, testing, and use of any type of mass-destruction weapon, including nuclear, chemical, biological and toxic weapons, shall also be banned, as well as their transport through the countries of the region, in accordance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco and other international conventions on this matter.

That they likewise commit to establishing a gradual system of elimination that will lead, in the shortest time possible, to the complete eradication of anti-personnel mines, according to the provisions of the Ottawa Convention, and to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

That the Bases and Actions for the Project to Create a South American peace and cooperation zone, formulated at the First Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Andean Community-MERCOSUR and Chile, held in Santa Cruz de la

Sierra on 17 July 2002, constitute an adequate set of guidelines geared to building that peace zone on firm foundations supported by the consensus of the whole region and based, among various other measures, on the fostering of trust, cooperation and ongoing consultations in the areas of security, defence, coordinated actions at the relevant international forums on disarmament and transparency and gradual limitations of arms purchases, under the system established in the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions, in the United Nations Register on Conventional Arms, and other procedures established in the regional and international conventions related to this important topic.

Guayaquil, 27 July 2002

(*Signed*) Eduardo **Duhalde**
Republic of Argentina

(*Signed*) Jorge **Quiroga**
Republic of Bolivia

(*Signed*) Fernando Henrique **Cardoso**
Federative Republic of Brazil

(*Signed*) Andrés **Pastrana**
Republic of Colombia

(*Signed*) Ricardo **Lagos**
Republic of Chile

(*Signed*) Gustavo **Noboa Bejarano**
Republic of Ecuador

(*Signed*) Luis Angel **González Macchi**
Republic of Paraguay

(*Signed*) Alejandro **Toledo**
Republic of Peru

(*Signed*) Hugo **Chávez Frías**
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

(*Signed*) Luis **Hierro López**
Eastern Republic of Uruguay

(*Signed*) Samuel R. **Insanally**
Cooperative Republic of Guyana

(*Signed*) Maria Elizabeth **Levens**
Republic of Suriname

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document which is in the files of the Treaty Office of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Quito, 30 July 2002

(*Signed*) Jaime **Marchan**
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs